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**Elder Law Section
Connecticut Bar Association**

In SUPPORT OF:

S.B. 142, Increase Eligibility for State-Funded Home Care Program

**Committee on Aging
February 28, 2012**

My name is Stephen Allaire. I am an elder law practitioner and my office is in Bristol, CT. I am a member and former officer of the Elder Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association, which consists of over 500 attorneys who work on a daily basis with the needs of the elderly in the State of Connecticut. At least two thirds of my practice is devoted to getting the care to keep people at home and out of nursing homes

The Elder Law Section supports legislation that would increase the availability of home and community based services for the elderly and for individuals under 65 whose care is supported through the many Medicaid waivers and programs we have in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders is an excellent Medicaid waiver program, as is the state-funded home care program. Therefore, we support S.B. 142 because it would increase the asset limits for individuals applying for the State Funded home care programs from one hundred fifty per cent of the community spouse protected amount to \$50,000 for an individual and \$75,000 for a married couple.

- Overwhelmingly, our seniors prefer to age in place and avoid institutionalization. Our greatest generation deserves no less.
- Likewise, our residents with disabilities, under age 65, prefer to receive services in the community and thus avoid institutionalization. Providing care in homes and in our communities saves Connecticut money.